

In the Specification:

At page 1, delete the first paragraph and replace it with the following new paragraph:

A1 --This is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/220,077, filed December 23, 1998, which claims the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), of the earlier filing date of U.S. provisional application, Appl. No. 60/068,667, filed on December 23, 1997. The entirety of each of these applications is incorporated by reference herein.--

At page 6, line 7, delete "DNA" and insert --DNA (SEQ ID NO:1)--; and
delete "amino acid" and insert --amino acid (SEQ ID NO:2)-- therefor.

At page 29, line 2, delete "GCC." and insert --GCC (SEQ ID NO:3)-- therefor.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9-16, 39, and 41-47 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please rewrite claims 1 and 23 as follows:

A2 1. (Amended) A mutein of human basic fibroblast growth factor, or a biologically active peptide thereof, comprising the substitution of a neutral and/or hydrophobic amino acid for one or more of the following:

- (a) Glutamate 89; or
- (b) Aspartate 101; or
- (c) Leucine 137;